

PEOPLE OVER PROFIT: ON IPL AND CORONAVIRUS**Commercial interest should not be allowed to override efforts to deal with the pandemic**

Sports and celebrations are the antithesis of social distancing, far from the optimum degree of remoteness required between individuals and between social groups in the time of a pandemic. As COVID-19 takes hold, spreading first from China to other parts of Asia, and then to Europe and the Americas, crowds and spectacle pose a real threat to public health and well-being. Runners sprinting full tilt despite overworked limbs and bowlers stretching every muscle are all part of sporting lore that feeds the 'toughness myth' of athletes. Yet, whatever the immunity innate to sportspersons, it offers no guaranteed protection against a malevolent virus. But what is at stake now goes beyond sport and festivities. Fans trooping into massive stadiums, cheering and swapping high-fives, devotees gathering at places of worship, lost to the world in their prayers, shoppers and movie-goers at malls, travellers passing through airports and railway stations, all are at risk in this situation. Ideally, sport's grand theatre and the coming together of people in public spaces should be cause for joy; but with the grim march of COVID-19, triggering cough, fever and in extreme cases putting lives in peril, social distancing and cancellation of public events are necessary. Quite rightly, sports administrators globally have called off tournaments or kept spectators away. But in India, where the Indian Premier League (IPL) is as intrinsic to its summers as mangoes, speculation lingered about its earlier schedule of a March 29 start. Thankfully, better sense prevailed within the BCCI and the Twenty20 bash was postponed.

True, the BCCI's hand was forced after the Sports Ministry's missive about staging events without an audience and the government's refusal of visas to foreigners till April 15. The IPL is a domestic tournament with an international flavour that needed both the heft of a vociferous crowd and the brand equity of overseas stars. With the twin facets ruled out for the time being, the Board had to take a stand and it made a virtue of a necessity. The IPL, if it had adhered to its original dates, would have been a strain on the overworked health sector. Fans, even if they are prevented from entering venues, would have thronged team hotels. The innumerable flights that the eight squads take to different cities could only have made the cricketers even more vulnerable. However, the situation is still fluid and it all depends on how the pandemic shapes up in the coming weeks. A Ministry of Health and Family Welfare note emphatically states that mass gatherings 'should be avoided or possibly postponed till the disease spread is contained'. Valued at ₹47,500 crore, the IPL brand is a huge money-spinner but the citizens' health and welfare must take precedence. Public interest should always trump profit mindedness.

1. **coronavirus** (CoV)(noun) – a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. (Courtesy: **WHO**)
2. **override** (verb) – disregard/ignore, pay no heed to, overrule/reject (a view, idea, suggestion etc).
3. **pandemic** (noun) – The worldwide spread of a new disease; The illness spreads around the world and typically affects a large number of people across a wide area.
4. **antithesis** (noun) – direct opposite, reversal, contrast.
5. **social distancing** (noun) – a term means actively avoiding crowded public places, is a key element in decreasing the rapid spread of COVID-19. This is an effort intended to limit exposure by reducing face-to-face contact and preventing spread among people in community settings.
6. **far from** (phrase) – not, not at all, nowhere near.
7. **optimum** (adjective) – most appropriate, ideal, perfect.

8. **take hold** (phrase) – begin to have an effect.
9. **spectacle** (noun) – display, show, event/performance.
10. **sprint** (verb) – run at full speed over a short distance.
11. **tilt** (noun) – attempt, aim, bid for (winning something).
12. **overworked** (adjective) – stressed/strained, overtaxed, overburdened.
13. **limb** (noun) – arm, leg.
14. **lore** (noun) – traditions.
15. **innate** (adjective) – natural, intrinsic, inherent; essential/inbuilt.
16. **malevolent** (adjective) – malicious/malignant, vicious; harmful, dangerous.
17. **at stake** (phrase) – at risk, at issue, in question.
18. **go beyond** (phrasal verb) – to do more than required/expected.
19. **troop** (verb) – (of people) come together in large numbers.
20. **swap** (verb) – exchange.
21. **high-five** (noun) – a hand gesture that occurs when two people simultaneously raise one hand each, about head-high, and push, slide, or slap the flat of their palm against the flat palm of the other person.
22. **lost to the world** (phrase) – so involved in a task that you don't realize what is going on around you.
23. **grim** (adjective) – severe, serious, threatening.
24. **march** (noun) – progress, advance, development.
25. **peril** (noun) – danger, jeopardy, risk/difficulty.
26. **call off** (phrasal verb) – cancel, abandon, shelve/drop.
27. **keep away** (phrasal verb) – make to stay away, prevent, avoid (from coming).
28. **speculation** (noun) – prediction, guesswork, opinion/thought.
29. **linger** (verb) – stay, remain, continue/persist.
30. **better sense** (noun) – good sense, sound judgment.
31. **prevail** (verb) – win, win through, triumph, be successful.
32. **bash** (noun) – social gathering, social event, get together, celebration.
33. **missive** (noun) – message, report, announcement.
34. **heft** (noun) – ability, influence; weight/strength.
35. **vociferous** (adjective) – outspoken, forthright, vocal.
36. **brand equity** (noun) – brand value; that value is determined by consumer perception of and experiences with the brand. If people think highly of a brand, it has positive brand equity.
37. **facet** (noun) – aspect, feature, characteristic/nuance.
38. **rule out** (phrasal verb) – exclude, eliminate, reject.
39. **for the time being** (phrase) – for now, for the moment, for the present.
40. **take a stand** (phrase) – to defend/assert one's point of view.
41. **make a virtue of a necessity** (phrase) – to gain an advantage from doing something (which you were forced to do by someone originally) by pretending you are doing it freely and happily; to make the best of a difficult situation.
42. **adhere to** (verb) – abide by, stick to, hold to, comply with.
43. **strain** (noun) – pressure, stress, demand/burden.
44. **throng** (verb) – pack into, jam, fill.
45. **vulnerable** (adjective) – unsafe, unprotected, unguarded.
46. **fluid** (adjective) – unsteady, unstable, fluctuating.

47. **shape up** (phrasal verb) – develop, progress.
48. **emphatically** (adverb) – distinctly, clearly, noticeably.
49. **money-spinner** (noun) – profitable thing.
50. **precedence** (noun) – priority, preference, first place, primacy.
51. **trump** (verb) – surpass, outdo, outperform, outshine.

DOMINION OVER TERRITORY: ON UTS AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

Verdict shows both potential for conflict and its resolution lie in the constitutional scheme

The verdict by a Division Bench of the Madras High Court on the respective roles of the elected regime in Puducherry and the Administrator appointed by the President underscores both the inherent potential for conflict in the governance scheme for Union Territories and the manner in which it can be resolved. The Bench has done well to say that its role is not to lay down who has residual control — whether it is the Council of Ministers or the Administrator — but to stress the existing legal framework under which their powers are defined. The Bench has set aside a single judge’s 2019 order that the Lieutenant-Governor should not interfere in the day-to-day administration of Puducherry. To this extent, it is a shot in the arm for L-G Kiran Bedi, but it also contains a note of caution against the Centre going beyond its constitutional limitations. An interesting facet of the case is that both last year’s judgment by Justice R. Mahadevan, and the one overruling it by a Bench comprising Chief Justice A.P. Sahi and Justice Subramonium Prasad, rely on the exposition of the law by the Supreme Court in relation to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The apex court had emphasised on the need for constitutional morality and constitutional trust among high dignitaries, implying that Lt. Governors and Chief Ministers must work in unison as far as possible. In the event of an unresolved difference of opinion, the L-G should refer it to the President for a decision.

The main ground on which the single judge’s verdict has been set aside is that it was based on an inappropriate parallel sought to be drawn between a ‘Union Territory’ and a ‘State’. If the matter goes on appeal to the Supreme Court, it may be worth examining whether the single judge relied solely on this parallel. Much of his verdict drew upon the spirit of the Supreme Court’s views on the conflict between the Chief Minister and L-G of Delhi. Whether the precedent on the limits of the Delhi L-G’s powers would apply to the Puducherry Administrator was a question that was raised even then. After all, it is acknowledged that the status of NCT is *sui generis*. However, the elements of conflict and discord are common to Union Territories with elected legislatures. Hence, the principle that constitutional functionaries should avoid daily clashes, with the Centre using its primacy to resolve disputes, does commend itself. In that sense, the single judge was not wrong in holding that the Administrator is bound by the “aid and advice” clause, and that the power to refer any matter to the President should not mean “every matter”. The main issue remains whether the notion of representative government should get greater credence even in a territory designated as belonging to the Union.

1. **dominion** (noun) – supremacy, sovereignty, power.
2. **potential** (noun) – prospects, possibilities, potentiality.
3. **lie in** (phrasal verb) – be present, be contained, exist.
4. **underscore** (verb) – underline, emphasize, highlight.
5. **inherent** (adjective) – basic/fundamental, implicit.
6. **lay down** (phrasal verb) – formulate, stipulate, frame.
7. **residual** (adjective) – lasting, enduring, persisting.

8. **residual control right** (noun) – power given to someone that allows him/her to manage daily management of a system.
9. **stress** (verb) – emphasize, draw attention to, underscore.
10. **set aside** (phrasal verb) – annul, overrule, nullify/cancel.
11. **interfere** (verb) – handle, meddle, intervene (unwantedly).
12. **day-to-day** (adjective) – regular, everyday, daily.
13. **shot in the arm** (phrase) – boost, fillip, stimulus.
14. **note of caution** (phrase) – warning.
15. go beyond (phrasal verb) – exceed, do more than.
16. **facet** (noun) – aspect, feature, characteristic/nuance.
17. **rely on** (verb) – be based on, depend on, rest on.
18. **constitutional morality** (noun) – the principle of constitutional morality basically means to bow down to the norms of the Constitution and not to act in a manner which would become violative of the rule of law or reflectible of action in an arbitrary manner.
19. **morality** (noun) – ethics, rights and wrongs, correctness/propriety.
20. **dignitary** (noun) – important/notable person.
21. **imply** (verb) – suggest, hint, intimate.
22. **unison** (noun) – simultaneous performance, simultaneous utterance of action/speech; simultaneously, at the same time, together.
23. **in the event of something** (phrase) – if something happens.
24. **difference of opinion** (phrase) – disagreement, quarrel; a divisive issue, fault-line.
25. **ground** (noun) – reason, factor, basis.
26. **parallel** (noun) – similarity, comparison, resemblance.
27. **sought** past and past participle of **seek** (verb) – try to find, attempt to find, look for (something).
28. **drawn** past and past participle of **draw** (verb) – formulate, perceive (a comparison).
29. **solely** (adverb) – only, simply, merely.
30. **draw upon** (phrasal verb) – rely on, use, utilize, have recourse to.
31. **spirit** (noun) – true intention, essence, substance.
32. **precedent** (noun) – pattern, previous example/instance, prior instance.
33. **acknowledge** (verb) – admit, concede, accept.
34. **sui generis** (adjective) – Latin, literally ‘of its own kind’; unique, individual, special.
35. **discord** (noun) – disagreement, difference, conflict/friction.
36. **functionary** (noun) – official, administrator, bureaucrat.
37. **primacy** (noun) – supremacy, superiority, dominion.
38. **commend** (verb) – recommend, suggest, put forward, propose.
39. **hold** (verb) – (of a judge/court) rule, decide.
40. **bound by** (adjective) – obliged, compelled, required, duty-bound.
41. **aid and advice** (phrase) – real authority to take decisions lie in the elected government. This is the meaning of ‘aid and advice’. Titular head (LG) has to act in accordance to aid and advice.
42. **notion** (noun) – idea, belief, concept.
43. **representative government** (noun) – a government where citizens elect people to represent them and make laws on their behalf, instead of always voting directly on laws and other government actions.
44. **credence** (noun) – acceptance, confidence; credibility, reliability.
45. **designate** (verb) – identify, recognize, classify.